

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the subject application is requested in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

The search performed by the examiner in connection with substantively examining the claims is appreciated.

Apparent withdrawal of certain portions of the previous Restriction is appreciated.

Claims 1-93 are pending. Of these, claims 1-17, 39-41, and 44-46 are the subject of the Office action. Consequent to the previous Restriction and to the instant Office action, claims 18-38, 42-43, and 47-93 are canceled without prejudice. Claims 2, 10, 12, and 15-16 are amended, and claims 1, 3-9, 11, 13-14, 17, 39-41, and 44-46 are unchanged. Applicant reserves the right to prosecute the canceled claims in at least one downstream divisional application as Applicant sees fit.

The Office action deemed the subject claims as being free of the prior art, but noted several formal matters that would involve amendments to certain claims. Hence, the amendments herein are not made for reasons concerning patentability over the prior art of record, and hence are not subject to limitations imposed by the *Festo* line of cases.

Claims 2, 10, and 12 are amended as suggested in the Office action.

The Office action suggested certain amendments to claims 14-16. In reply, claims 15 and 16 are amended to remove "the" preceding the word "respective." This amendment places claims 15 and 16 in the same form as unamended claim 14. It is submitted that claim 14 does not require amendment. Each of claims 14-16 now state that the force devices are braked by respective braking controllers, which is believed to satisfy the apparent concern of the examiner.

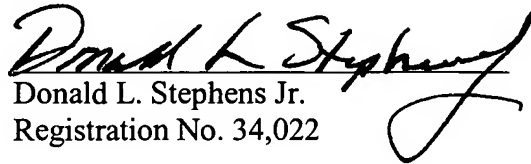
The subject claims are now in condition for allowance and early action to such end is requested.

If any issue remains after consideration of this paper, the examiner is requested to contact the undersigned to schedule a telephonic interview. If the examiner does not make such contact and issues a subsequent "final" action, then Applicant will consider himself as having a right to a telephonic interview after the final action.

Respectfully submitted,

KLARQUIST SPARKMAN, LLP

By


Donald L. Stephens Jr.
Registration No. 34,022

One World Trade Center, Suite 1600
121 S.W. Salmon Street
Portland, Oregon 97204
Telephone: (503) 595-5300
Facsimile: (503) 228-9446